पर सुपुर्दगी का प्रयास करने, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति तथा वितरण की परिवीक्षा करने के लिए ग्राम/उचित दर दुकान के स्तर पर सतर्कता समितियां गठित करने आदि के लिए कार्यवाही करते रहे हैं। इसके अलावा राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों के अधिकारी कदाचारों को रोकने के लिए नियमित रूप से दौरे करते हैं।

Pilferage of Coal

162. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pilferage of coal at its source and in transit is on the increase in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that small scale industry of Northern India is the worst hit due to this pilferage;

(c) whether the Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd. have jointly enquired into the loss due to pilferage; and

(d) if so, the joint action plan suggested to check the pilferage and avoid financial loss to small scale units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have reported that while there are cases of pilferage from the collieries, and also during rail transit, it cannot be said that the pilferage from the collieries is on the increase. CIL have no firm data about the alleged pilferage of coal during rail transit, and its impact on the small scale industries.

(c) and (d) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have reported that no joint exercise has been done by CIL and Ministry of Railways to enquire into the loss due to pilferage. Coal companies are, however, tightening the arrangements regarding weighment at the time of loading of coal. All out efforts are being made by coal companies to ensure maximum serviceability of weighbridges, and full utilisation/use of the available weighbridges so that as much weighment as possible is done of the rail-borne coal. Consumers can also post their representatives to inspect loading and weighment of coal at the loading/weighment points.

Mafia activities in coalfields

163. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the *Economic Times* dated the 13th April, 92 captioned "coal Mafia surfaces with vengeance";

(b) whether it is a fact that 25 lakh MTs of steam coal valued about Rs. 250 crores has been pilfered by the Mafia directly from the collieries and illegally diverted to private coal dumps throughout the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Mafia activities in the coalfields go on in connivance with the local officials of the CIL and its subsidiaries and the Railways; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the plan of action to tackle the problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not received any report of pilferage of coal of such high magnitude from collieries. Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to alleged pilferage of direct feed and washed coking coal being supplied by Coal India Limited (CIL) to steel plants. The total quantity of such coal supplied to steel plants during March '92 from CIL sources was 7.45 lakh tonnes. As such the alleged shortage of 25 lakh tonnes is even more than the supplies made.

(c) and (d) Coal is sold by coal companies on ex-pithead basis. Coal companies extend full opportunity to the